



BONHOMME RICHARD'S ALMANAC

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"I have not yet begun to fight!"



MARCH 12, 2000 SUPPORT GROUP UPDATE

By Stacey Hanson, Family Support Group Secretary

Just wanted to send you an update on what the Support Group has accomplished so far in the month of March.

Half Way Party committee: Tickets are currently on sale for the Half way party, which will take place on April 28th. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at Support Group Activities, or by calling Jessica Agnew or Laura Smith. Please encourage your spouse and family members to attend. This committee also held their first fundraiser, in which they raised approximately \$40. Door Prizes are being collected and plans are being finalized. There will be another committee meeting next week, and when I get information, I will forward it on.

This weeks activities included Bowling at 32nd Street Naval Station, Reuben H. Fleet Science Center Tour, Coffee at Earthblend, play group on Thursday, and Ice Skating on Saturday.

Our next actual Support Group Meeting will be March 19. Unforeseen circumstances caused us to cancel the meeting on March 5 and reschedule.

This is the first of many updates scheduled to be sent to this group. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. If there is anything you would like to see in these updates, please let me know. I will try to send them on Mondays (Tuesdays for those of you on the BHR).

NAVY COLLEGE PROGRAM HELPS SAILORS

By Vice Adm. J. W. Craine

We kicked off the Navy College Program (NCP) that helps Sailors earn a college degree of their choice when they are ready and at their own pace anywhere in the world, whether at sea or ashore. One of the features of NCP is the Sailor Marine Ace Registry Transcript (SMART). The SMART documents recommended college credit for a Sailor's military training and occupational experience. Information on DANTES tests taken for college credit (e.g., CLEP) and Navy funded

courses taken while on active duty is also provided with a Sailor's SMART. Requests from Sailors for their individual SMART have overwhelmingly been the number one item requested from the Navy College Center (NCC).

Sailor's can now obtain a copy of their individual unofficial SMART online on the Internet via the NCC Web site. It has never been easier for Sailors to see what college credits they've earned through their Navy training.

C A M P A I G N 2000

MR. GORE, BUSH CHARGE AHEAD *By Associated Press*

The presidential front-runners are taking different roads after locking up their parties' nominations in the southern primaries.

Mr. Al Gore says there will be "no let up at all" in his Democrat campaigning as he heads to Pennsylvania for an AFL-CIO convention and a fundraiser.

Republican George W. Bush, meanwhile, is relaxing at home in Texas, after feeding speculation about retired General Colin Powell being a potential running mate.

Bush tells CNN that Powell "would send a strong signal to America" that Bush can attract the nation's best minds. Bush says he plans to talk to Powell and hopes to get his support. But he says it's a little early to talk about vice presidents.

STOCK MARKET

WALL STREET SUFFERED LOSSES *By Associated Press*

The pullback by technology stocks on Wall Street provoked selling in Tokyo, although the Nikkei gained back some ground in late trading.

Big names in electronics and telecommunications were prominent among retreating shares in Japan. The Nikkei dropped 63 points or 0.33 percent to close at 19,078.60.

Wall Street's losses were led by Biotech stocks after the U.S. and Britain agreed to share data from a project to decode the human genetic pattern. Investors fear that companies involved in genetic mapping will not be allowed to sell genetic data to drug makers and researchers.

FRIDAY'S STIE TV SCHEDULE

CHANNEL 2

1030 SPIN CUTY
1100 OUT TO SEA
1630 LAW & ORDER
1730 JEOPARDY
1800 PARTY OF FIVE
1900 BUFFY: VAMPIRE SLAYER
2000 MICKEY BLUE EYES
2200 NORMA JEAN AND MARILYN

CHANNEL 6

1030 SISTER, SISTER
1100 PALMETTO
1630 BEAN
1800 PAPILLON
2030 MEN IN BLACK
2200 THE CORRUPTOR

TV SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
DUE TO OPERATIONAL COMMITMENTS

BONHOMME RICHARD'S ALMANAC

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N A T I O N A L / I N T E R N A T I O N A L N E W S

1999 ARMED FORCES AID REPORTED

John Omininski, Gannett News Service

About 13,500 families of Armed Forces enlisted personnel got food stamps last year and 8,290 received state child-care assistance, a new General Accounting Office report says. Another 117,000, about 10 percent of the enlisted force of 1.17 million, were in the Women, Infants and Children program that provides prenatal, postpartum and under-5 child care at off-base locations. The GAO, Congress' investigative arm, said the Defense Department encourages women to go into the WIC program because Pentagon programs are so limited.

BEIJING PLANS TO INVADE TAIWAN

By Bill Gertz, The Washington Times

China's latest threat to take military action against Taiwan indicates that hard-line Communists are the dominant power in Beijing, a Chinese democracy activist said yesterday.

"The white paper is the product of extreme hard-liners," said Wei Jingsheng, a dissident activist who spent 19 years as a political prisoner in a Chinese forced labor camp. "They have already decided to invade Taiwan, and this is the document they issued to show to the world their intention," he added.

Mr. Wei said during a meeting with reporters and editors of The Washington Times that Congress should reject legislation granting China permanent favorable trade status because approving it would end political leverage used against China over human rights abuses.

U.S., CHINA TRADE PACT DETAILS

By Joseph Kahn

The Clinton administration, responding to congressional pressure, declassified and released a 250-page document entitled "Agreement on Market Access Between the People's Republic of China and the United States of America."

The agreement helps clear the way for China to join the World Trade Organization. It enshrines in print China's commitment to allow capitalism to spread to most corners of the economy. Rarely has the United States pinned down a trading partner on so many elements of business life.

China dropped non-tariff barriers to imports of everything from wheat to harvesters. China allowed Washington to treat it as a non-market economy for 15 years. That gives Washington leeway to impose duties on imports from China.

COHEN WRAPS UP VIETNAM VISIT

By Associated Press

Defense Secretary William Cohen is wrapping up his landmark visit to Vietnam. Cohen says he's received assurances that the former war enemy has buried the hatchet with the United States.

The leader of Ho Chi Minh City called Cohen's visit a milestone toward repairing relations between the two countries.

Cohen is the first American defense secretary to enter communist Vietnam since the war ended 25 years ago. Diplomatic relations were restored in 1995.

Cohen's chief mission was to facilitate the return of the remains of American soldiers from the war.

SPORTS

DEVILS TRADE TWO FOR MOGILNY

By New York Times

The New Jersey Devils, mediocre for the past month, improved their team Tuesday during the last hour before the National Hockey League's trading deadline by acquiring right wing Alexander Mogilny from Vancouver. To get the speedy Mogilny, the Devils sent centers Denis Pederson and Brendan Morrison, who were each disenchanted with their roles.

OTHER NHL SCORES:

Tampa Bay 4 Montreal 3
Detroit 3 Nashville 2

THREE SUSPENDED FOR VIOLENCE

By New York Times

The National Football League took an unprecedented step Tuesday by suspending three players two games each. It was the first time that playing time has been revoked for first-time offenders under the league's violent crime policy. Former Jets Matt O'Dwyer and Jumbo Elliott (who recently announced his retirement) were suspended for their involvement in a bar fight last summer, and Denard Walker, a Tennessee Titans starting cornerback, for an assault on the mother of his son.

TAMPA RETIRES BOGGS' NUMBER 12

By Associated Press

Wade Boggs is about to become the 60th American League player to have his uniform number retired. Tampa Bay plans to retire number 12 on April seventh, even though Boggs played only two years with the Devil Rays. The 12-time All-Star got his three-thousandth career hit, a home run, in Tampa. He also hit the first home run in Devil Rays' history.

SEAN ELLIOTT RETURNS TO LINEUP

By New York Times

Sean Elliott has spent the last nine months dealing with the prospect of rejection, both physical and professional. With his kidneys failing, he underwent a transplant in August. With drive that made him an asset in the run by the San Antonio Spurs to the NBA championship last June, he sought to become what is believed to be the first professional athlete to come back after an organ transplant.

On Tuesday night against the Atlanta Hawks, Elliott received a deafening ovation from the crowd of 25,000 at the Alamodome and played for five minutes in the Spurs' 94-79 victory.

OTHER NBA SCORES:

Toronto 85 Golden State 78
Orlando 107 Washington 98
Miami 108 Milwaukee 104
Philadelphia 98 Cleveland 97
New York 91 Houston 85
Dallas 111 Indiana 90

REPAIR LOCKER TRAINING



Damage Control Chief Rick Mathis goes over fire fighting symbology with Repair Locker members. (Photo by JO3 Laura Wiggins).